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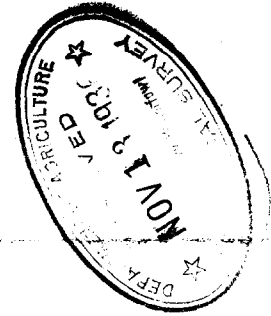
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FOUR NEW NATIONAL FORESTS IN TEXAS

Purchase Units, Aggregating Over $1\frac{1}{2}$ Million Acres
in Pine Belt in Eastern Counties, Given
Permanent Status under Forest Service



The four federal forest purchase units established in eastern Texas by the Government in 1934 were proclaimed National Forests by President Roosevelt October 15, the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, announced today. The new National Forests include 1,714,000 acres, of which about 531,000 acres already have been purchased and placed under the administration of the Forest Service.

Each of the four units, which now become the Sam Houston, the Sabine, the Angelina, and the Davy Crockett National Forests, contain large areas of cut-over land carrying some timber of commercial value and all have great possibilities for development as permanently productive timber lands. It is the plan of the Forest Service to administer the four National Forests in Texas under a forest supervisor to be stationed at Houston.

The Sam Houston National Forest contains 491,800 acres gross area, in Montgomery, Walker, and San Jacinto counties. About 148,000 acres of this area have already been approved for purchase by the National Forest Reservation Commission. Forest management for continuing yields of timber and other permanent uses is being established by the Forest Service. The greater part of the Sam Houston has been cut over but is restocking to young trees, largely shortleaf and loblolly pines and hardwoods.

The Sabine National Forest includes about 439,600 acres in Sabine, Shelby, and San Augustine counties and is next to the Louisiana boundary, on the watershed of the Sabine River. About three-fourths of it is cut-over land, largely restocking to young trees. Almost half of it is already under Federal administration.

The Angelina National Forest contains 388,700 acres in Angelina, Jasper, San Augustine, and Nacogdoches counties. Approximately 135,000 acres have been purchased or are in the process of purchase and have been brought under Forest Service administration.

The Davy Crockett National Forest is in Houston and Trinity Counties. It covers a gross area of 394,200 acres, of which 165,000 are now under control of the Government. It is the southwestern-most National Forest in Texas. The Forest Service plans to replant parts of it that formerly grew stands of longleaf pine.

These four National Forests all contain a small proportion of farming land. But about 85 percent of their area is cut-over stands of pines and hardwoods on soils better suited to timber-growing than farming. All lie well within the Southern pine belt. The trees grow rapidly into commercial-size timber and under good forest management the lands can be made to produce a large volume of merchantable timber. Cut under sustained-yield plans, these forests are capable of contributing largely to the maintenance of established lumber and wood-using industries and of improving local and regional economic conditions. Forest Service finds that somewhat more than half the gross area has been logged and burned over, but is restocking to young trees. Nearly 300,000 acres have some timber already of commercial size. Approximately 76,000 acres of destructively-logged timber lands are not restocking and will need replanting. The Forest Service, with local

and state cooperation is already extending fire protection, and is building and maintaining forest roads and trails. Most of the four National Forests are within the fire-protection area of eight-million acres established by the Texas Forest Service.

Forest Service management is expected to furnish practical demonstrations of good forestry practice to the timberland owners and farmers of the eastern part of the state.

The virgin stands in this region average 50 to 100 feet in height. Active lumbering, begun about fifty years ago, has wiped out most of the big timber. In the vicinity of the four National Forests only ten large sawmills remain in operation, all of which in recent years have shown a rapid decline in lumber production. Several of the existing mills are facing serious reductions in available timber supplies. The Forest Service hopes by improving fire protection and logging methods to aid materially in turning the tide of forest depletion in this area, which is an important source of timber for a large farming and industrial region of the western gulf states.